

REFLECTOR

VOL.62, No.3

"Holding Forth the Word of Life"

March 2016

MISS BERTHA SMITH

16 November 1888 -- 22 June 1988

MISSIONARY STATESWOMAN



Bertha Smith A woman of faith

In God's goodness and providence, I had the privilege of coordinating a speaking engagement for Miss Bertha whose ministry I had learned to appreciate in various venues over the years and through her books and tapes. When she learned about the prayer seminar ministry, she became an encourager. She gave me some tips about arrangements for my own speaking engagements. She encouraged me to request a motel room as my accommodation to ensure privacy for my own spiritual preparation before teaching. While I modified her advice, I soon learned to specify a private home minus any elaborate entertaining.

In her biography **Go Home and Tell** she shared how she handled a mandatory retirement age at seventy set by the International Mission Board (SBC). She came home and became a friend and teacher for pastors who, themselves, needed a spiritual awakening to become effective leaders. Pastors, evangelists, missionaries and other leaders by the thousands were touched who in turn touched thousands upon thousands of their own people. Some of the leading men whom God used to influence my life and ministry--**Jack Taylor, Ron Dunn, Stephen Olford, Peter Lord** (to name a few) were first influenced by Miss Bertha.

In her biography, Miss Bertha tells of traveling by rickshaw to a primitive village in China to devote several days to evangelistic work. Her living conditions were squalid; she shared a stall with an ox, with lice, and with a swarm of flies.

When she retired the first night, Miss Bertha wrote, "I soon found more living creatures than just the ox in that room. What my fellow missionary Dr. Jeannette Beall calls 'China's millions,' were crawling from the bed below, all over me, biting as

Keep on course

For forty-eight years, Miss Bertha Smith (1888-1988) served as a missionary in China and Formosa (now Taiwan). Communism forced her to leave China in 1948 and she relocated in Formosa. She was forced to retire from her appointment in 1959. Until her death in 1988, she ministered in the United States, especially to pastors. Her influence in calling pastors to a deeper spiritual life was profound.

As a young pastor, Dr. Jim Britt sought Miss Bertha's counsel on how to build a church. Her response was simply, "Tend to the prayer God will tend to the rest." Why is it that so many pastors and church leaders have forgotten this fact? Could it be that Satan, our archenemy, knows the power of prayer and makes it a goal to keep us from praying? Isn't it time that we reverse this neglect? Through the prayer seminars, many individuals have come to an understanding of the purpose and power of prayer.

Reprint
Reflector
(VOL 52, No. 8)

they crawled. What could I do about that number one enemy of China's poor? For a moment I was tempted to be upset; then I prayed, 'Lord, I am not here on a pleasure trip; I am here to tell these people about You. I cannot see them tomorrow unless I rest. Down in Egypt, You sent the very small animals scampering at Your rebuke. Now just turn the heads of these lice in another direction and let me sleep.' In a moment I was fast sleep and never saw another one in my bedding."

Later, as far as the flies, she prayed, "Lord, I am one of Your spoiled children. All my life I have been accustomed to screened houses and clean food. Now, I just can't eat with those flies all over my food. Down in Egypt You had flies come and go at Your word. You are the same today. ... Now please do one of two things for me: either take the flies away, or enable me just to go ahead and eat and not mind them. You then take care of any disease germs which they may put into my body. ... Whichever You wish to do will be good enough for me!"

Which do you think God did?

"Not a fly flew into that ox stall the remaining five days that I was there witnessing and teaching!" wrote Miss Bertha. "You will agree that was a miracle." That was a "no-fly zone" in the truest sense of the phrase.

We could well learn lessons from Miss Bertha. Nearly 100 years old, she was prepared to leave her home in Cowpens, South Carolina, to speak at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. But God had a different venue for the person Stephen Olford called, "the woman of revival" and that was to bring her home to Heaven where she now resides.

Many of the truths that I emphasize in a prayer seminar are from Miss Bertha's teaching. From the days of the Shantung Revival in China, her commitment to a life of prayer was deep and enduring. She would exclaim, "Have you made your sin list yet? Until you deal with your sins, you cannot claim God's promises." Then, "No prayer, no revival!" That is why she established her prayer center in Cowpens. To pray with Miss Bertha was to touch the hem of God. Her favorite text on revival was **2 Chronicles 7:14** "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Yours in Calvary love,

J. Gordon Henry

The best commentary

The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible. Learn to let the Word explain the Word. More important than any commentary is the Word of God itself, as illuminated by the Holy Spirit. Without the Word of God, there is no life, growth, holiness, or acceptable service. Read the Word of God. Hear the Word of God. Study the Word of God. Memorize the Word of God. Meditate on the Word of God. Heed and apply the Word of God. Above all, obey it. Obedience is the organ of spiritual knowledge.

How much time daily do you spend reading your Bible?
How much time in prayer?
And you wonder why the church is powerless?

GOD BLESS AMERICA Independence Day, July 4, 1776

George Taff, Sr. was born in Hampshire County, Virginia, December 19, 1762. **Sarah Wiley** was born in 1765. They were married in 1787. They were my great-great-great grandparents. He fought in **the Revolutionary War**. **Peter Taff**, his father and my great-great-great-great grandfather, was born in 1720 and died in 1792. George and Sarah migrated to Jefferson County, Tennessee (my home county) and are buried there. She died in 1830 and he died March 6, 1839.

President Abraham Lincoln understood the legacy that was won and passed on during the War for Independence. He wrote the words in his own handwriting and delivered them in his Gettysburg Address (November 19, 1863. "Four score and seven years ago. " My great-grandfather, **Harvey Covington** (1833-11/20/1896) was a Tennessean who fought in the **War between the States** for the Union (as did many other young men from East Tennessee, a section of the state that did not secede).

My brothers, son, and nephew were veterans (army, navy, air force, marines). "**Boots**" (12/14/25-5/6/61) **World War II**; **Lee** 3/11/31-1/12/95) **Korean Conflict**; **Al** (4/20/32-1/30/88) and **Doug** (1/4/45-9/19/2012), **Vietnam Conflict**. Our son **Mark** (10-2-59), a graduate of Hargrave Military Academy (VA), served in the **U. S. Marines** for four years. My nephew, **Lyle Jones** (2/30/33-1/13/96) was retired from

FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM



THE PATRIOTS



Boots



Harvey



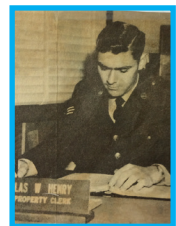
Lee



Al



Lyle



Doug



Mark

a distinguished Air Force career serving around the world. Each of them believed in America and was willing to die for our nation. As we face the opportunity of electing the forty-fifth president for the United States of America, let's ask God's leadership and guidance. Let's be genuine **LIGHTHOUSES OF PRAYER** pushing against the spiritual darkness perpetrated by Satan, our enemy who stands behind the chaos and unrest that we are facing.

America! The land that I love!

Today, I weep for America. I weep for our children, our grandchildren, and our great-grandchildren. God bless America! May America emerge from these troubled times and be the city on the hill that **President Ronald Reagan** declared us to be once again strong and the world's leader! Let's fly the flag! Let's pray! Let's seek God's forgiveness and follow the steps God has established for His people in **2 Chronicles 7:14** "It is time for judgment to begin in the House of God" (1 Peter 4:17).

The future is in the hands of Christians--"folded hands in prayer"--as our pastor, Don Edwards, said at Southeast Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, TN. Arise, men of God! Onward Christian Soldiers! Let us sing once again what is reported to be Lincoln's favorite song, the Battle Hymn of the Republic: "mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord ... Glory, hallelujah, His truth is marching on." IT IS TIME!

Seven frames of mind

Dr. A. T. Pierson points out that there are seven distinct frames of mind in **1 Thessalonians 5:15-22**. Check yourself as a Christian and determine where you are in regard to each frame of mind. One of the most important attitudes toward the Word of God is allowing it to serve as a mirror held up by the Holy Spirit to let you see yourself as God sees you. This should be done every time you read or hear the Word of God.

1. The praiseful frame (v 16). Finding all God's dealings to be infinitely grand;

2. The prayerful frame (v 17). Prayer should never be unsuitable or unseemly.

3. The thankful frame (v 18). Even in circumstances not pleasant to the flesh.

4. The spiritual frame (v 19). He should have full victory in and through us.

5. The teachable frame (v 20). Any channel which God chooses to use.

6. The judicial frame (v 21). Test all by the Word of God. (Compare 1 John 4:1).

7. The hallowed frame (v 22). If evil takes shape in your mind, avoid that evil.

**PRAY FOR THE
PEACE OF
JERUSALEM
Psalm 122:6**

Listen as the Bible speaks

Just use me I am the Bible.

I am always and above all the Truth.
To the weary pilgrim, I am a good strong staff.

To the one who sits in gloom, I am a glorious light.

To those who stoop beneath heavy burdens, I am sweet rest.

To him who has lost his way, I am a safe guide.

To those who have been hurt by sin, I am healing balm.

To the discouraged, I whisper glad messages of hope.

**A BIBLE READING
PLAN
KEEPS YOU
IN THE
WORD!**

**The Bible is the final and
ultimate revelation of
truth. The words found in
the Bible are the
Christian's Necessary Food.**

REFLECTOR

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"Holding Forth the Word of Life"

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NOTES from my BIBLE

Note 3021. Worship, for a believer, is to open your heart to the love of God.

Note 3022. The love of God is so vast, wide, and inclusive that it can be said, "You will never meet a person whom God does not love."

Note 3023. "Don't forget the moment you accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you accept Satan as your enemy."

Note 3024. The devil will do anything to keep a Christian from reading his Bible.

Note 3025. God's commands are not given to be analyzed, debated, or disregarded, but to be obeyed.

DOORKEEPER REPORT

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers."

1 Thessalonians 1:2

January 16--February 10, 2016

Regular	54	\$9,235.00
East Africa	28	2,265.00
Total	82	11,500.00



WELCOME, NEW DOORKEEPERS!

Allie Allen (LA)

David & Eunjoo Andersen (VA)

Jeff & Leann Englert (KY)

George & Pat Hitchings (VA)

Jonathan & Julia Jobe (SC)

James & Shelly Rode (FL)

Partners with God

1 Corinthians 3:6-9

PRAYER CALENDAR

MARCH 2016

"I will give myself to prayer..."

Psalms 109:4b

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

JOSH 1-3 (Antigua 91,295)

Mae Adams (NC)
Marie Adams (VA)
Robert & Susanne Adams (TN)
Norma Ailes (NJ)
Allie Allen (LA)
H. L. & Janie Allen (SC)
David /Eunjoo Andersen (VA)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

JOSH 4-7 (Argentina 43M)

Tommy & Pat Apple (NC)
Eldon & Gayle Armstrong (SC)
Leonor Avila (MD)
Bill & Karen Baker (OK)
Mike & Joyce Baker (VA)
Tim Bash - GCCC (NJ)
Stan & Emily Baskin (TN)

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

JOSH 8-10 (Armenia 3M)

Jean Beasley (TN)
Tommy Bell (TN)
Wayne & Barbara Belt (TN)
Johnny/Juanita Bernard (FL)
Ron & Teri Bernardi (IL)
Beverly Blankenship (TN)
Ed & Loretta Bolen (VA)

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

JOSH 11-15 (Aruba 110,663)

Everett/Deborah Boston (MD)
William/Debbie Bowden (MD)
David & Marna Boyd (OR)
Curtis & Carol Bradbury (NJ)
Ed & Jean Bradshaw (VA)
Emilee & Kim Bradshaw (VA)
Nancy Bretz (PA)
Clint & Dorothy Brooks (VA)

5 SATURDAY, DAY, MARCH

5

JOSHUA 16-20 (Australia 22:5M)

Henry & Ruby Brown (AZ)
Arretta Bruce (TN)
Joe & Martha Bruno (CO)
Freddie/Yvonne Brunson (DE)
Don & Gayle Buchanan (KY)
George & Janet Buck (NJ)

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

Janice Bugg (TN/Chin)
M/M Vernon Bundt (IA)
Sunday & Grace Bwanhot (IL)
Don & Lucy Campbell (VA)
Mary Campbell (ID)

Cliff & Laura Cannon (FL)
Joeretha Capers (FL)
Robert & Anne Carroll (VA)

MONDAY, MARCH 7

JOSHUA 21-24 (Austria 8.2M)

Harry & Nancy Coffee (VA)
Vernia Coleman (MD)
Mary Columbus (VA)
Kathie Connolly (VA)
Larry & Sue Cooper (DE)
Terry & Sonja Craig (TN)
Jerry & Joan Crain (SC)
Robert & Charlotte Crout (SC)
Dufrene/Peggy Cummings (NC)
Barbara Custalow (VA)

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

JUDGES 1-4 (Azerbaijan 9.7M)

John Davis (VA)
Harold & Tama Decker (NY)
Alan & Rebecca Dockrey (KY)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

JUDGES 5-8 (Bahamas 321,834)

Paul & Joyce Eggleston (VA)
Lynn Elkins (TN)
Jeff & Leann Englert (KY)
Don & Mary Enoch (FL)
Gene & Shirley Farley (CA)
Larry & Cara Fields (VA)
James & Ruth Flanagan (GA)

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

JUDGES 9-12 (Bahrain 1.3M)

Claire/Mary Ann Fredstrom (NE)
Ronald & Brenda Fristoe (VA)
James Fugate (CA)
Estelle Gabbard (KY)
Mike & Lerlyne Garcia (VA)
Pauline Garrett (NJ)
Frank Geiger (HI)
Sara George (GA)

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

JUD 13-16 (Bangladesh 166.3M)

Gloucester Co. Community Ch (NJ)
Bruce Sofia, Pastor
Maargie Gobart (FL)
Ron & Carol Godwin (VA)
Ronald & Maryann Gold (ND)
Chad & Wendy Goodner (OK)
Sam/Michele Graisbury (NJ)
Velma Graven (KY)
Dale & Mary Gray (IL)
Odether Gray (GA)

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

JUD 17-21 (Barbados 289,680)

Linda Gregory (UT)
Bruce & Vivian Harris (TN)
Sadie Harris (VA)

Jim Hengoe (CT)
Gina Henry (VA)
J. Gordon & Sue Henry (VA)
Jack Henry (TN)
Jacqueline Henry (VA)
James & Kathryn Henry (MS)
Mark Henry (TN)
Melody Henry (VA)
Roger & Sara Henry (OH)
Sean Henry (VA)

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

Steve & Donna Hensel (MN)
Frank & Pat Hitchings (VA)
Jerry & Sandra Hodge (VA)
Joanna Holland (VA)
John & Glenda Holland (VA)
Anita Horton (VA)
Mike & Sonya Hosick (VA)
Coy Hunsucker (NC)
Joyce Hunt (TN)

MONDAY, MARCH 14

RUTH 1-4 (Belarus 9.6M)

Wilbert/Almaretta Hupp (PA)
Ed Hurlow (IN)
Gerald/Tanny Jackson (WA)
Gene/Rose Marie Jeffries (AR)
Vernelle Jenkins (MD)
Paul & Suzanne Jennings (TN)
William/Marsha Jester (DE)
Jonathan & Julie Jobe (SC)

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

1 SAM 1-3 (Belgium 10.5M)

Millicent John (NY)
Bob & Rhonda Johnson (WA)
Dan & Jayne Johnson (KY)
Gwen Johnson (AZ)
Jim & Penny Johnson (KY)
Rick & Betsy Johnson (TN)
Ben & Gwen Jones *MD)
Dave & Debbie Jones (VA)
James Jones (FL)
Paul Jones (KY)
W I & Eloise Jones (SC)
Mohan Katta (IL)

MONDAY, MARCH 16

1 SAMUEL 4-8 (Belize 340,844)

Howard/Suzie Kauffmann (GA)
Harper/Shelia Keebaugh (PA)
Kerby Knob Baptist Ch (KY)
Daren Hisel, Pastor
Larry & Janet King (NC)
Robert & Andrea Klepper (TN)
Quintin & Mary Knauer (OH)
Kenneth & Amy Kollar (NY)

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

1 SAMUEL 9-12 (Benin 10.2M)

Irwin & Joyce Koopman (MI)
Korean Branch:

Dr. Shin Kwang Suk
 Joel & Jackie Kramar (VA)
 Woodrow & Linda Kroll (NE)
 Steve & Dawn Lambert (NC)
 Craig & Molly Lampe (AZ)
 Phil & Edra Landers (OK)
 Charles/Cynthia Larson (MI)
 Bob Lawrence (MD)
 Del & Mary Leach (VA)
 Raymond & Janet Lemay (VT)

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

1 SAM 13-15 (Bermuda 69,839)

Liberty University (VA)
 Jerry Falwell Jr., President
 Mike & Earlene Lips (MS)
 Vincent/Mary Lobisco (MI)
 Ray & Bobbie Long (WV)
 Don & Betty Lowry (SC)
 Rachel Mann (NC)
 Manship Chapel (DE)
 Bruce & Vickie Tribbett
 Wilma Marcum (KY)

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

1 SAM 16-19 (Bhutan 733,643)

Reg & Gloria Martin (OH)
 Larry & Sue Mason (VA)
 Deborah Mathias (NY)
 Murray/Loretta Mathis (TN)
 Dan & Fay McConville (VA)
 R. O. & June McHaney (VA)
 Don & Barbara Meduna (CO)
 Memorial Christian Ch (VA)
 Virgil & Sue Knipp, Pastors
 Terry & Sandra Metzgar (VA)

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

Betsy Miedema (MI)
 Gwen Miller (VA)
 Marjorie Miller (VA)
 Roger & Nancy Minney (VA)
 Ted & Natalie Monroe (KY)
 Bill & Sharon Moody (VA)
 French & Laura Moore (VA)
 Ronald & Wilma Moore (NC)
 Joseph & Doris Moos (NJ)

MONDAY, MARCH 21

1 SAMUEL 20-23 (Bolivia 10.6M)

Elaine Moser (MN)
 Bob & Diane Nichols (VA)
 Chet & Betty Nichols (WA)
 Ann Palumbo (PA)
 Cheryl Parker (VA)
 Raleigh & Janet Parker (VA)
 Roger & Kay Pede (VA)
 Jim & Barb Peterson (MI)
 Willis & Joyce Pillow (VA)
 Mildred Pittman (NC)

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

1 SAM 24-26 Bosnia/Herz 3.9M)

Ben Poplin (VA)
 Ayers Porter (TN)
 Barbara Powell (NY)
 Barbara L. Powell (VA)
 Marshall & Lois Powell (KY)
 Jeanne & Maggie Pribble (VA)
 John Reed (NH)
 Dave Ricker (ME)
 Alice Riddick (NC)
 Joyce Riley (KY)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

1 SAM 27-31 Botswana 2.2M)

Calvin & Valerie Ritchey (VA)
 Cynthia Roach (VA)
 John & Sandra Roberts (NC)
 Bo & Betty Robinson (MS)
 Isabel Robotham (NY)
 James & Shelly Rode (FL)
 Clark & Marie Rogers (VA)
 Fred Rolater (TN)
 Bob & Marlene Rose (MI)
 Sandra Rumore (VA)
 John Saint (PA)
 Don/Marie Satterwhite (MO)
 Dwayne Schmalz (WI)
 Gary & Sandy Schnittjer (PA)
 Frank & Alta Schollaert (PA)

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

2 SAMUEL 1-4 (Brazil 202.7M)

Phil/Wendy/Steve Schrank (WI)
 John & Peggy Seibert (AL)
 Dennis/Monica Shannon (OH)
 Shenandoah Valley Baptist Ch
 (VA) Gene Jones, Pastor
 Nellie F. Shepard (CT)
 Ray Shields (VA)
 Richard Shorter (NJ)
 Charlie & Liz Sill (VA)

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

2 SAM 5-7 (Br Virgin Is 32,680)

Bobby & Cindy Smith (VA)
 Mildred Smith (VA)
 Ron & Bonnie Smith (VA)
 Helen Sourlis (MD)
 Leroy/Suk Hi Standifer (WA)
 Tim & Pam Steger (ID)

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

2 SAM 8-10 (Brunei 422,675)

Carol Snow Stewart (CT)
 Jerry & Reba Stinnett (VA)
 Charles Stinson (VA)
 Johnny & Rose M. Street (TX)
 William Suttles (NC)
 Bob & Sandy Swain (VA)

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

Brian/Janice Tarraferro (TX)
 Billy & Sharon Taylor (PA)
 Stephanie Taylor (GA)

Rose Tengstrand (VA)
 Mona Henry Thomas (VA)
 W. D./Jackie Thomason (TN)
 Montez Thompson (WI)
 William & Katie Toney (NC)
 Virginia Trask (VA)

MONDAY, MARCH 28

2 SAM 11-14 (Burkina Fa 18.4M)

Carrol/Ouida Troutman (KY)
 Clay & Lisa Troutman (KY)
 Kelly & Janice Troutman (KY)
 Joe & Benita Troutman (KY)
 Malcom Troutman (KY)
 Marshall/Mary Troutman (KY)

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

2 SAM 15-18 (Burma 55.7M)

Frances Turpin (VA)
 Sara Underwood (TN)
 Patrick/Patricia Vaden (TN)
 Harris/Jane Verkaik (MI/FL)
 George/Jeanette Vernarchik (NJ)
 Sam & Rita Verghese (NJ)
 Keith/Doris Snyder Verrall (FL)
 Walter/Mary Ann Voss (DE)
 Horace & Becky Ward (NC)
 Michael/Sandra Ward (IN)
 Beau/Ashley/Willow/Will Ware (VA)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

2 SAM19-20 (Burundi 55.7M)

Kay Warmerdam (TX)
 Joyce Warpoole (TN)
 Rodger Watts (WI)
 Frank & Nell Weer (KY)
 Gale & Nancy Wetzel (KY)
 Kay Wice (GA)

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

2 SAM 21-24 (Cambodia 15.5M)

Reg/Mary Ann Wilburn (VA)
 Jeff Williamson (FL)
 Ken & Carol Willis (VA)
 Julie L. Wilson (PA)
 Neil & Melinda Wilson (VA)
 Eva Winebarger (VA)
 Amos & Celia Wipf (GA)
 Jonathan & Selena Wood (PA)
 Greg & Lori Worley (GA)
 David & Lili Wykle (VA)
 Fred & Susan Zeller (MD)



DAILY INTERCESSION

**You never need to carry
burdens alone.**

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Jennie Agee [Wayne] (VA)

Milcie Arnold [Carrol] (VA)

Marilyn Barry (VA)

Dr. Jim Britt [Judy] (GA)

Margarie Coffee (VA)

Kathie Connolly (VA)

Georgia [Foster] Covington (VA)

George & Joy Harper (VA)

Uel and Hazel Hartless (VA)

Dorothy Hensley (VA)

Sam Hough [Linda] (VA)

Linda Leverett [Gaylen] (VA)

Clark Rogers [Marie] (VA)

Sam Simpson [Lola] (NY)

Jean Smith [Jim] (KY)

Walt & Betty Sommers (VA)

Mazie Taylor [Ron] (VA)

Donna Thompson [Larry] (VA)

Willie Troutman [Diane] (KY)

**H
E
A
L
T
H**

INTERNATIONAL: REPRESENTATIVE WORKERS

Shem & Deborah Kamla (Nigeria)

Mulumba Placide Kituta (DR Congo)

Alexis & Noraida Montero (Venezuela)

Leslie/Tabitha Motsalane (South Africa)

Enock & Patience Mulomba (Botswana)

Adam & Dianna Nathanson (Venezuela)

Andrew & Celestine Sakari (Kenya)

Martin & Anne Shikuku (Kenya)

Joseph & Esther Tan (Singapore)

Paula Tipton (Thailand)

Joseph & Lily Veres (Malawi)

Cliff & Marcia Vincent (Brazil/China)

Roberto & Joana Waisman (Brazil)

Othnel Wakili (Nigeria)

Silas & Comfort Yashim (Nigeria)

True Friends

True friends leave their footprints on
your heart,
But Jesus leaves His footprints on
your soul.

I thought of you today. I pray for you
every day.

I am thankful that we had God's
guidance that we met.

I pray for those whom you meet as
you travel,

that they will become anchored in the
"Word" you convey

Whenever and wherever.

Have a blessed 2016 A. D. Yours in
Christ,

Doorkeeper Walt Sommers

Forest, Virginia Isaiah 16:3

The modern-day tragedy

A carnal Christian is a Christian where
self is in control, not the Holy Spirit. Some
have surmised that as many as 95 out of
every 100 Christians are carnal. We can only
imagine how pleased our enemy, Satan, is
when this is the case.

The author of **Proverbs 24:30-34**
passed by a sluggard's vineyard and
saw that it was overgrown with thorns.
Plants with stinging hairs or nettles were
everywhere to be seen. The stone wall
was in ruins. There is an object lesson in
this scene. When a person is too lazy to
care for his vineyard, he will not do well.
Is there a message to carnal Christians? I
think there is.

When we succumb to laziness in spiritual
matters, our lives (vineyard) become
infested with the works of the flesh (thistles
and nettles). There is no fruit for God. Our
spiritual defenses (the wall) are down, and
the devil gains the desired foothold. The
result of our coldness and backsliding is
poverty of soul. The tragedy is in place!

Four generations

"I will give them singleness of **heart and action** ... for their own **good** and the good of their **children** after them" (Jeremiah 32:39).

Each morning when Sue and I gather around our dining room table for our "family altar," we intercede for four generations living in Virginia, Tennessee, Mississippi and Oklahoma.



**Maggie & Granddad at Montecello
Thomas Jefferson's Home**

PETITION PRAYING: We each pray for ourselves, as did **Jabez (2 Chronicles 4:9-10)**. **INTERCESSORY PRAYING:** We pray for each other. Then following the Biblical pattern mandated by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, we pray **in agreement (Matthew 18:19)** for the next three generations that make up our nuclear family: our three children whom we affectionately call our "3 Ms" (**Mona, Mark, and Melody**), our six grandchildren (**Beau, Jeanne, Emilee, Kimberlee, Wendy, and Jamey**), our five great-grandchildren (**Caleb, Maggie, Willow, Lillian, and Stone**). We thank God for giving us a family. We ask for God's amazing grace, mercy, and watch-care for each by name. We ask that He will give each of them a heart for Him.

Intercession is standing between God and others as did **Abraham** long ago. **Intercession is focusing the power of God on a person or a situation.** Often during a day, the Holy Spirit stirs our minds to send out an arrow prayer for one of our family members. Since we live in a community that is conducive to walking, there are sometimes representative of our four generations walking together. God is good.

I have made it a point to encourage the participants in a prayer seminar to pray diligently and fervently for their own family members (including their salvation and service), I often say, **"If you are not praying for your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, no one else is."**

Just as you need the prayers of those you love, those you love need your prayers. I have on my typing table a DVD, the story of **Doorkeepers Wilbert & Almaretta Hupp** (Milton, Pennsylvania) celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary, entitled "Loving God, Loving Each Other." That is what I am saying for your family members love God and love each other. If you visit our home at 1127 Lakeview Drive, Lynchburg, Virginia, you will find many photos including a hallway with one wall covered with family photos. **Don't forget to pray for your family! In times like these, we need an anchor the Lord Jesus Christ is the only sure anchor.**

Lord, Speak to Me

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak
In living echoes of Thy tone;
As Thou hast sought, so led me seek
Thy erring children lost and lone.

O lead me Lord, that I may lead
The wandering and the wavering
feet;
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed
The hungering ones with manna
sweet.

O teach me Lord, that I may teach
The precious things Thou dost
impart;
And wing my words, that they may
reach
The hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with Thy fullness, Lord,
Until my very heart o'erflow
In kindling thought and glowing word,
Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

O use me, Lord, use even me,
Just as Thou wilt, and when, and
where,
Until Thy blessed face I see,
Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.

If we are not thoughtful, we could easily miss the deep meaning of the first two lines of the hymn written by **Frances Ridley Havergal**: "Lord speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of Thy tone." That is far more than a prayer that we may be able to **deliver the Lord's message**. It is rather that we may do so **in His tone, with His temper**. This is **Meribah**, where Moses failed when he spoke "rashly [unadvisedly] with his lips" (**Psalm 106:33**). This refers to the day when Moses sinned against God by not following His command "to speak" to the rock

(**Numbers 20:1-13**). Moses had not modeled proper obedience and respect for God's command. For this failure, he was excluded from entering the Promised Land.

Looking Ahead: Domestic

UTAH SEMINARS. We have called **Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Utah** our "four evasive states." Over the years, there have been seminars in forty-six states and the District of Columbia, but none in these four states. Thinking about Paul's desire to go to "regions beyond" (e.g., "I am ready to go to Rome"), I understand his feelings. **Plans are to be in Bountiful, Utah for prayer seminars April 19-24.** Many of you have shared that Sue and I are on your **daily prayer list** with specific focuses (health, open doors and the like). Add **Doorkeeper Linda Gregory** as she coordinates the seminars. Add **Dr. Bruce Sofia** (Gloucester County Community Church, Washington Township NJ) as he works with his network to schedule seminars in **Montana, New Mexico, and North Dakota**. The Lord willing, **we will celebrate our 59th wedding anniversary in Lynchburg April 18 and then travel to Utah on April 19 for further celebration! God is good.**



PHOTO PRAYER BOARD
(Photos welcomed)

The Mombasa Kenya Prayer Seminars

Mombasa is Kenya's resort city along the Indian Ocean, 503 miles east of Eldoret (in the Rift Valley in West Kenya where **Martin Shikuku** resides). **The Shikukus** have lived in Eldoret since fleeing their home during the post-election conflict in 2009 and have commuted back and forth to the **Glory Baptist Church** campus. Praise the Lord for His hand upon this work. Not only has the congregation built the largest Baptist facility in west Kenya, they have built a home for Martin and his family that was completed in late January.

Although we await the final report for the 2016 (February 13-20) prayer seminars in Mombasa, God blessed. We have the report on the first of the five prayer seminars: **Ukunda Baptist Church, Pastor Josh Wali, 117 attended including 31 pastors. 11 saved. "very good enthusiastic listeners, very much challenged. Thanks for prayer and financial support."** Next report in April **Reflector** with MORE BLESSINGS TO REPORT. Thanks **Ropeholders** for Martin who have given \$2,000 to support this effort. Remember our special focus is on **East/Central Africa** based on the extraordinary leadership of Martin and his time who are getting the job done!

Looking Ahead: International

Cuba. My international ministry began in **Placetas, Cuba** in January 1960. This city is four hours east of Havana in Santa Clara Province. Fifty years later, I returned to First Baptist Church and was overwhelmingly blessed to find nine of the seventy people who came to Christ in 1960 present in the service. **Adam Nathanson** is working on our return June 20-July 4 with Placetas one of the venues.

Southern Africa. Since 1998, **Leslie Motsalane** has been building a great church in **Thabong**, a black township adjacent to **Welkom** in the Free State and has been directing **JGHM: SOUTHERN AFRICA BRANCH**. We have literally blanketed **South Africa** and the other southern Africa nations with prayer seminars with **Leslie and Tabitha**, his wife. More funds have been invested in this area than any other area in the world. Leslie has recently been in **Mozambique** for follow-up seminars using the Portuguese prayer seminar workbook. Plans are for me to return later in the year. **Put Leslie on your prayer list.** He was diagnosed with cancer last year and is now recovering his health.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Dean Eddie Dobson

12/30/1949-12/26/2015

Grand Rapids, Michigan

We are praying for Lorna, her sons, grandsons
and the Calvary Church congregation. My tribute,
entitled "Standing Orders," is written and will
appear in the April Reflector